

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/663,960

Examiner

David N. Spector

Applicant(s)

MATSUSAKA, KEIJI

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to FAOM.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0903 (09/16/2003)
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other DETAILED ACTION - ALLOWANCE.

DETAILED ACTION - ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 8-22 are allowed. All claims thus being allowable, prosecution on the merits is closed in this application. A statement of the examiner's reasons for allowance is provided in the paragraph which follows below.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention(s) of Kuniyoshi et al. (1995) and Suematu et al. (1993) disclosed by applicant as being representative example(s) in the art to which the instant invention pertains. In particular, said improvement provides an advanced vision sensor having a both a long focal length and a wide angle of view, as a whole; which simultaneously achieves high definition in the central region of a telephoto image by including a novel aspherical surface arrangement on the most object-side lens surface of a taking lens included therein. The aforesaid surface has positive optical power in a central portion of the lens, and a negative optical power in a peripheral portion thereof (*e.g. a lens of this type is often referred to as either a "fovea lens" and/or a "distortion lens"*) and satisfies the conditional relationship $-90 < Da < -20$ as recited in each of the instant independent claims (Claim 1, Lines 5-9; Claim 120, Lines 8-12). The prior art taken either singly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of applicant's independent claims, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The claimed invention is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and nonobvious over prior art.

Other Remarks/Information

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ueyama (US2004/0179100A1), Sato (JP2000-341568A, and Suzuki (JP5232208 A)

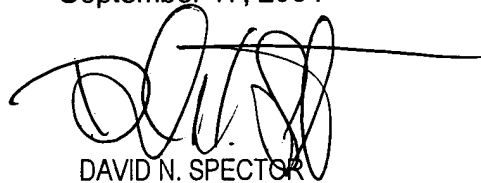
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disclose a variety of fovea/distortion lenses . Copies of these references are not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6. Any other inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David N. Spector whose telephone number is (571) 272-2338. The examiner can normally be reached at this number Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 2:30 PM. The fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

September 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. N. Spector', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID N. SPECTOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER